

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS
Oram Shri JuaI

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of proposals for upgradation and completion of economically important National Highways in the country are pending with the Government for according technical clearance to them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the technical clearance and for completion of all such projects including the project of NH 215; and
- (d) the target date fixed for the completion of these projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 FOR ANSWER ON 27.02.2008 ASKED BY SHRI JUAL ORAM REGARDING "ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS".

(a) National Highways are not categorized as economically important. However, the upgradation of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon the availability of funds, traffic density and inter-se priority of works.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Regular monitoring of status of technical clearance, financial and physical progress of works pertaining to all National Highways Projects including NH 215 is carried out and actions are taken to remove bottlenecks. Quarterly review meetings are being held with the officers of the State Government for monitoring of progress as well as removal of bottlenecks. In addition, the following steps are also taken to expedite the implementation of works under the National Highway Development Project and other National Highways projects:

(i) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, and Senior Officers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, and Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving state related problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues which impede the progress of the work.

(iv) This Ministry has been authorized to issue notification for acquisition of land for National Highways without referring to the Ministry of Law.

(v) To expedite the construction of railway over bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to coordinate with Ministry of Railways.

(vi) Punitive actions have been taken against non performing contractors.

(vii) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of the contractors by granting financial assistance.

(d) The target date of completion of project is decided on the basis of type, amount, specifications used and location of the project. The completion date varies from project to project.